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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 /084 W
---------- 058973
R 180953Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9563
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 16221

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, RP
SUBJECT: LABOR/EMPLOYERS REACTION TO NEW LABOR DECREE

REF: MANILA 16053

1. LATEST CHURCH REACTION TO P.D. 623 HAS BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY. IN WHAT MAY WELL HAVE BEEN RESULT GOVERNMENT EFFORT MOBILIZE SUPPORT IN FACE ARCHBISHOP SIN'S "VIGOROUS PROTEST," LABOR AND MANAGEMENT HAVE BEEN REPORTED AS "HAILING" NEW LABOR DECREE. SPEAKING FOR "UNIFIED" PLCC, ROBERTO OCA ACCORDING PRESS (NOVEMBER 16) DECLARED P.D. 823 CLARIFIED AMBIGUITIES ON RIGHT TO STRIKE, GUARANTEED FREE EXERCISE OF LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION RIGHTS, AND INSURED LABOR MOVEMENT AGAINST "FOREIGN AND RELIGIOUS MEDDLING." OCA ALSO QUOTED AS CALLING FOR TOTAL BAN ON CHURCH PARTICIPATION, REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION, IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES. LATTER STATEMENT SECONDED BY PAFLU'S ONOFRE GUEVARA AND NACUSIP'S ZOILO DE LA CRUZ WHO BOTH CITED RECENT CHURCH INTERFERENCE IN CERTIFICATION ELECTIONS INVOLVING THEIR UNIONS.

2. ALSO DUTIFULLY TOEING LINE FOR EMPLOYERS, ECOP (EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF PHILIPPINES) PRESIDENT FRED ELIZALDE REPORTEDLY
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STATED DECREE WELCOMED BY EMPLOYERS NOT BECAUSE IT PROHIBITS

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STRIKES, BUT BECAUSE IT REINFORCES CIVIL ORDER UNDER WHICH NEW SOCIETY CAN ACHIEVE ITS LARGER OBJECTIVES FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. ELABORATING, ELIZALDE MAINTAINED THAT BAN ON STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL TO PURSUIT OF CHANGE, PROGRESS AND GROWTH UNDER NEW SOCIETY.

3.COMMENT: EMBASSY INFORMED BY RELIABLE CHURCH CONTACTS THAT LABOR SECRETARY OPLE PRESENT WHEN MARCOS RECEIVED SIN'S PROTEST LETTER LAST WEEK. OPLE'S MARCHING ORDERS FROM MARCOS WERE "YOU HANDLE THIS." ACCORDING TRADE UNION SOURCES, OPLE FORTHWITH SOLICITED ABOVE STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FROM PLCC AND ECOP. SEEMS LUDICROUS THAT LABOR HAS IN EFFECT LINED UP WITH GOVERNMENT AND EMPLOYERS IN "SUPPORTING" DECREE WHICH PERPETUATES STRIKE BAN. EVEN THOUGH LABOR MOVEMENT MIGHT HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY CONDONING COMMON CAUSE WITH CHURCH, CURRENT ALIGNMENT MORE UNNATURAL.
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